

**City of Belmont  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 3, 2017  
One Twin Pines Lane, City Council Chambers**

**CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Foehr, Mittelstadt, Fine, Cotten, Michaels, Bortoli, Fox, Raddavero and Block

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Parks and Recreation Director Gervais and Administrative Assistant Saggau

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Chair Foehr

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

Commissioner Michaels commented positively on the Egg Adventure Hunt.

Commissioner Bortoli noted there was a Senior Showcase at the Senior Center which provided information on senior services.

Parks and Recreation Director announced the following:

- Streets Alive at Farmer's Market
- Novartis Volunteer Day
- Hungarian Festival
- Polish Festival

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**April 5, 2017 Minutes**

Commissioner Block requested a revision to the second item in Department Reports to read as follows: The Pump track concept was presented at a Hidden Valley neighborhood meeting and the residents expressed support for the idea of a pump track in Belmont but had concerns about locating it in their neighborhood.

Commissioner Michaels requested clarification on the Commission input on the Veterans Memorial that the list was inclusive of all the comments and no recommendation was made.

Chair Foehr noted that one Commissioner comment was left off the list for the Veterans Memorial. She requested adding that the memorial have a spot for flowers or notes.

**ACTION: On a motion by Commissioner Bortoli, seconded by Commissioner Michaels the minutes were approved with the revisions. Vote 7 Commissioners and 2 Youth Commissioners in favor.**

## **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **Action on the Ad Hoc Dog Management Committee Recommendations for the Barrett Community Center**

*Chair Foehr recused herself from the meeting, stepped off the dais and left the room due to owning property within 500 feet of Barrett Community Center and handed the meeting to Vice Chair Mittelstadt.*

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais reviewed the background on this item and explained the Ad-Hoc Committee's process and findings. He noted this item was on the Commission meeting agenda in March, the Commission provided input, the Ad-Hoc Committee reconvened, and developed a recommendation (Shared Use) for consideration.

The Ad-Hoc's Committee proposed alternative included the following parameters:

- Off leash use April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6AM-8AM
- Off leash use June 15<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup> from 6PM to ½ hour after sunset
- No dogs on field all other times
- Pilot project for two year period starting in Fall 2017
- Construct fence separating athletic field from rest of site with signage at entrances

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais and Ad-Hoc Committee members Michaels and Mittelstadt responded to Commission questions.

Robin Zimmerman – spoke in favor of the community time with dogs and the need for dogs to exercise and socialize. He spoke in favor of extending the evening hours, having a two year pilot program and providing a grassy area for dogs.

Claudio Urzua – said he used to take his dog to Barrett and misses the community interaction. He explained dogs need space to run and the dog community was usually on the field weekday evenings.

Bill Krone – spoke in favor of allowing the dogs to run in an open space as it affects their health and behavior. He noted the dog community police each other. He spoke favorably of the programs in San Mateo and Burlingame. He added it was a great community usage for dog owners and he misses it.

Joe McDonough – spoke in favor of dog hours at Barrett to provide a place for dogs to run. He noted there was a petition signed by 400 residents in favor of allowing dogs on the field. He expressed concern with not allowing on leash dogs on the fields at all other times and the short season proposed for summer evening hours.

Greg Cala – spoke in favor of allowing dogs at Barrett and noted the importance of socialization for dogs. He spoke against not allowing dogs on the fields at all other times.

Sergio Raddavero – spoke representing AYSO and noted the main concern is safety. He said the proposed recommendation was a good compromise. He added dogs should not be allowed on the fields on or off leash during youth sports program activities.

Commissioners provided comments and suggestions:

- Safety first priority
- In favor of stop light idea for field closures
- Calculate increase in maintenance costs from off leash use
- Provide waste pickup stations with various cleanup methods
  - Add more waste stations
  - Set up water cleanup area by exits
  - Move water fountain with dog bowl closer to field
  - Provide shovels and material so holes dug by dogs can be filled
- Enforcement fines should be clearly posted
- Consider using cell phone photos to identify those breaking rules
- Video surveillance could monitor site
- Entrance gates best by playground, away from Ralston Avenue
- Reevaluate the timing for off-leash hours
  - On again/off again schedule could be challenge/consider 7-8 pm year-round
  - Parks close at dusk and it would be dark in the evening hours part of the year
  - Consider extending hours to when sports activities end
  - Possible to add hours on leash during winter hours
- Make Cipriani Dog Park more desirable
- Determine criteria to measure success
- Soccer groups do not want dogs on field
- Ways to improve communication on hours
  - Sign up for alerts and ability to report problems
  - Call program Bow Wow Barrett
- Consider pathway allowing area for dogs to walk outside of field

There was Commission discussion on extending the hours and not allowing dogs on the field whether on or off leash at all other times. They decided to approve the concept of the recommendation for the Shared Use Alternative with a caveat on the schedule for off-leash hours and dogs not being permitted on the field at all other times so this can be reconsidered by the Committee and brought back to the Commission.

**ACTION: On a Motion by Commissioner Cotten, seconded by Commissioner Bortoli, the Commission moved to approve the proposal for Number 5 (Shared Use) caveating on-leash, off-leash discussion and expanded hours. Vote 6 Commissioners and 2 Youth Commissioners in favor. Commissioner Foehr recused.**

## **Commission Liaison and Park Assignments**

*Chair Foehr returned to the dais.*

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais explained the role of liaison and park assignments.

The Commission completed the Liaison and Park Assignments as follows:

<u>Liaison</u>	<u>Primary/Backup</u>
City Council	Mittelstadt/Michaels
Planning Commission	Block/Fox
Belmont/RS School District	Foehr
Sequoia Union HS District	Foehr/Fine
Senior Advisory Committee	Bortoli
VOICES Program	Fine/Raddavero
<u>Parks</u>	<u>Member</u>
Alexander Park	Cotten/Mittelstadt
Barrett Community Center	Michaels/Cotten
Belameda (Library) Park	Block/Raddavero
Central Field	Foehr
Cipriani Park / Dog park	Block/Raddavero
College View Park	Foehr
Davey Glen park	Michaels/Fox
Fox Field	Bortoli/Fine
Hallmark Park	Fine/Raddavero
Hastings Tot Lot	Mittelstadt/Michaels
McDougal Park	Mittelstadt/Raddavero
Nesbit Field	Cotten/Foehr
O'Donnell Park	Cotten/Mittelstadt
Ralston Field	Bortoli/Fine
Sports Complex & Bike Bridge	Michaels/Block
Ralston Ranch	Bortoli/Cotten
Semeria Park	Block/ Foehr
Twin Pines Park	Michaels/Fox/Mittelstadt
Wakefield	Raddavero/Fine
Water Dog Lake & Hidden Valley	Block/Fine/Cotten
Wharton Park	Foehr/Raddavero

## **Consideration of Canceling the July 5<sup>th</sup> or August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting**

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais explained the Commission traditionally cancels one meeting during the summer; usually August. However with the first Wednesday in July being July 5th the Commission may want to consider canceling the July meeting instead. Following discussion, there was Commission consensus to postpone the July meeting to July 12 and cancel the meeting in August.

## **OTHER BUSINESS / UPDATES**

### **Department Reports**

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais reported on the following:

- Alexander Park Reopening
- Egg Adventure Hunt
- Water line break repair at Barrett Community Center
- Purchase of Shade Structure for Barrett
- Teen Program/Recreation Program Coordinator position
- Belmont Connects Projects
- Davey Glen Park project
- Twin Pines Park homeless challenges

### **Questions and Comments**

Responding to Commissioner Bortoli's question Parks & Recreation Director Gervais said the Public Works Department Earth Day Event was a success.

Joe McDonough submitted a request to speak to on Agenda Item 6A. He was given the opportunity after Chair Foehr recused herself from the meeting.

Chair Foehr invited Commissioners to a farewell party for former Commissioner Vargas.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Dogs at Barrett Community Center  
Ralston Ropes Course  
Solar Projects and Energy Efficiency  
Bicycle Pump Track

### **Council and Commission Top Priorities**

- Athletic Field Improvements
- Barrett Community Center Master Plan

### **Council Other Priorities that include Parks and Recreation**

- Veterans Memorial
- Twin Pines Park Master Plan
- Tree Ordinance Update
- Resolve the Dog Issue at Barrett
- ADA Transition Plan
- Citywide Volunteer Program

### **Commission Other Priorities**

- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan
- Dogs in Parks Policy

- Department Resources and Budget
- Open Space Maintenance and Management

*Chair Foehr recused herself, stepped off the dais and left the room handing the meeting to Vice Chair Mittelstadt.*

Joe McDonough expressed concern about dogs not being allowed on the field while on leash at all other times outside the off leash hours. He questioned if he could be involved in or provide his input at the Ad-Hoc Committee meetings.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

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Jonathan Gervais  
Parks and Recreation Director